

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~pocket~~ battery separator having the form of a pocket and having a useful life for a lead-acid storage battery, said separator comprising a microporous sheet having a first side and an opposite second side and comprising ultra high molecular weight polyethylene having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs in the center area of ~~a~~ said first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises two to four elongated continuous vertical ribs in the center area of said first side of the sheet provided with ~~a~~ the plurality of studs, said elongated continuous vertical ribs and said plurality of studs remaining on said sheet during said useful life, said studs having a shape selected from the group consisting of spherical caps, semi-spheres, truncated pyramids, truncated cones and non-continuous ribs having a length of not more than 0.5 cm, said second side of said sheet being devoid of studs.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The separator as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of said two to four elongated vertical ribs has the same or a lower height than the studs.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The separator as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said studs and ~~the~~ said elongated continuous vertical ribs are solid bodies integrally formed of the same material as the separator sheet.

8. (Currently amended) The separator as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said elongated continuous vertical ribs are formed of a different material than the separator sheet.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The separator of claim 1, wherein said pocket battery separator has an inner surface, and wherein ~~in which the~~ said studs and said elongated continuous vertical ribs are provided on ~~the~~ said inner surface of ~~the~~ said pocket.

12. (Currently amended) The separator of claim 1 wherein said pocket battery separator has a bottom edge area, and wherein at least one of said two to four elongated continuous vertical

ribs is arranged in ~~the~~ said bottom edge area of ~~the separator~~ said pocket.

13. (Currently amended) A rolled-up battery separator having a useful life for a storage battery, said separator comprising a porous sheet having a first side and an opposite second side and a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on ~~a~~ said first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises two to four elongated continuous vertical ribs in the center area of said first side of the sheet provided with ~~a~~ the plurality of studs, said plurality of studs and said two to four elongated continuous vertical ribs remaining on said sheet during said useful life, said studs having a shape selected from the group consisting of spherical caps, semi-spheres, truncated pyramids, truncated cones and non-continuous ribs having a length of not more than 0.5 cm, said second side of said sheet being devoid of studs, said separator being adapted to be cut into pieces for insertion in said storage battery.

14. (Original) A lead acid storage battery comprising at least one separator according to claim 1.

15. (Currently amended) A ~~pocket~~ battery separator having the form of a pocket for a lead-acid storage battery, said

separator being a microporous sheet consisting essentially of a homogeneous mixture of 8 to 100 vol.% polyolefin, 0 to 40 vol% plasticizer and 0 to 92 vol.% inert filler, said sheet having a first side and an opposite second side and a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs in the center area of a said first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises two to four elongated continuous vertical ribs in the center area of said first side of the sheet provided with ~~a~~ the plurality of studs, said studs having a shape selected from the group consisting of spherical caps, semi-spheres, truncated pyramides, truncated cones and non-continuous ribs having a length of not more than 0.5 cm, said second side of said sheet being devoid of studs.